

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending in this application prior to the current amendment. Claims 8-17 and 21-23 have been amended. Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled. New claims 25-27 have been amended. Accordingly, as result of this amendment, claims 1-18 and 21-28 are being submitted for further examination.

The specification has been amended, as set forth above, to claim the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/266,938 filed on 2/7/01.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 1-8 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants believe that this rejection has been traversed in view of the amendments set forth above, which add a period to the end each of these claims.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 19 and 20.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being enabled. Applicants believe that this claim is fully enabled and call the Examiner's attention to the specification at, for example, page 20, line 7 to page 22, line 6. In view of this portion of the specification, applicants request that the rejection of claim 18 be withdrawn.

Claims 21-24 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants request that the objection to claims 21-24 has been obviated in view of the amendments to claims 21-23 and the addition of new claims 25-28.

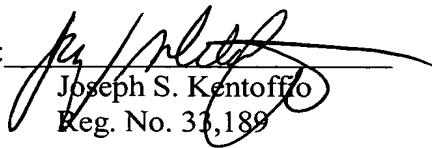
In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are required in connection with this Response. However, should any fees be required applicants request that these fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 10/0750/ORT-1579/JSK.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Response, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Joseph S. Kentoff
Reg. No. 31,189

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-3711
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